

Orhan Batuhan Akdeniz

My name is Orhan Batuhan Akdeniz and I graduated from the University of Southern California this May, majoring in Industrial and Systems Engineering. My position with the City of Torrance was to help the Communications and Information Technology Department in their computer procurement process. Through my previous internships, I worked at a home appliances company and a mobile applications company in Istanbul, Turkey in their Sales and Computer Applications Departments respectively. Since September, I worked at Ace Clearwater Enterprises in Torrance to help them with their conflicts in the estimated and actual times for their Check and Straighten process.

When I applied to the Internship program at the City of Torrance, I was expecting to see how the skills that I have learned in college would be applied to my business life. The mission of Industrial Engineers is to find ways to optimize a current system. The Computer Procurement Process needed to be changed according to the requests of technicians and analysts. I had several meetings with all of the technicians in the City of Torrance to ask about their problems with the current process and also solicit their suggestions that we could add to the current process. Through these meetings, I had the chance to see the process in different perspectives. I was able to meet my expectations from this internship program with all of the work I have taken on.

Moreover, this internship helped me to understand how I could work as an Industrial Engineer in a city government. It helped me to achieve my goal of working in the USA and to understand the business life in a city government. The City of Torrance and my experience here increased my interest in government participation throughout this month. I learned about the basics of the structure of the City of Torrance and understood other significant topics such as the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge System) Program. Also, throughout our meeting with the City Manager, I learnt that Konya, Turkey was the sister city of Torrance in 1950's. Torrance still has a street named Konya Drive to honor this old friendship. I am very happy I did this internship in a city that is full of opportunities and has a long history.